United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3410 (NA-09-10)
Date: October 13, 2009

Subject: 2009 Aerial Detection Survey

To: Leanne M. Marten, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

On July 1, 2009, Rod Whiteman and Dan Snider of this office along with Lauren Miles conducted an aerial detection survey of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). The accompanying map shows the general locations and types of damage observed during these flights.

This year, we mapped a total of 18,402 acres of visible damage within the proclamation boundary of the Allegheny National Forest. The most commonly reported agents yet again this year were beech bark disease and leaf anthracnose.

Scattered tree mortality, discoloration and branch dieback were the most visible symptoms of BBD. This trend is expected to continue throughout the forest as trees attacked by this complex succumb.

Conifer mortality and decline was mapped on both Ranger Districts, 486 acres on the Bradford District and 364 acres on the Marienville District. This mortality appeared to be confined to pine plantations. Individual scattered tree mortality and continuous pockets of mortality were observed.

District Rangers and other field-going personnel are reminded that they have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office. Activity such as an unusually high number of moths present in the forest in early spring and summer may be a prelude to a heavy defoliation event by defoliators.

I personally would also like to extend my appreciation to Lauren for their valuable assistance in this survey. If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte or Ann Steketee at (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

Robert Lueckel

Field Representative

Morgantown Field Office

Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Marienville RD w/enclosures
Andrea Hille, Forest Silviculturist

DS/RMT/AKS